

PRIME MINISTER

FAMILY PRACTITIONER SERVICES  
H COMMITTEE

H Committee discussed at its meeting on Wednesday the Binder Hamlyn Report on the control of family practitioner services. The general feeling was one of caution following the row with the BMA over deputising services. It was felt that the original plan to publish the Report together with an announcement that the Government broadly accepted its main approach would unnecessarily antagonise the BMA and prejudice the chances of reaching acceptable economies. The Committee considered two alternatives: first, to publish the Report with an anodyne statement which did not commit the Government in any way; and second, to delay publication and to use time to reach provisional conclusions on the next steps. The Committee favoured the second alternative. Since publication would still be followed by a period of consultation this approach would imply that legislation next Session was unlikely to be possible.

MS.

JD

3 February 1984

Fus

RW

PRIME MINISTER

NATIONAL UNION DINNER

I understand that you will be sitting next to Sir Peter Lane who is a senior partner at Binder Hamlyn. Though unlikely, it is possible that he could enquire about progress on Binder Hamlyn's report on the Family Practitioner Service. I have no idea whether he personally was connected with this study but he could have been alerted to it by a colleague.

I attach a copy of the minutes of H Committee. As you will see, there has been some retreat since the FPS was discussed by the Seminar in January. There it was agreed that the report should be published and its recommendations endorsed. In the light of the row with the BMA over deputising services, Mr. Fowler suggested publication of the report, while delaying a full Government response. I understand his Department is also conscious of the need to think through all the implications, e.g. for the medical schools. Other members of the Committee, anxious to avoid a political row, urged postponement of publication. This view prevailed and DHSS and Treasury were given a month to consider the next steps.

If Sir Peter raises this, I suggest you say simply that before publishing the report the Government needs to consider its response carefully.

Following your speech to the Small Business Bureau a Mr. Maynard wrote in. He had attended as a guest of Binder Hamlyn and he mentioned Sir Peter Lane. I attach a copy of the letter to which I have already responded, sending a copy of the speech. The Department of the Environment are dealing with the specific question.

MR. A. JURNBULL

14 February, 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister<sup>①</sup>

At the seminar with DHSS, it was agreed that the Binder Hamlyn report should be published and its recommendations endorsed. In the light of the row with the BMA, Mr Foster suggested publication of the report while delaying full Government response. Other members of the Committee, sensitive to a political row, urged postponement of publication. This view prevailed and Treasury and DHSS were given a month to consider next steps.

Are you content to leave it there or do you want to inject rather more urgency?

AT

7/2



10 DOWNING STREET

mf

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister <sup>(2)</sup>

To note the conclusions of H on Birde Hamlyn. I am told the Chancellor is unhappy with this, though is inhibited from complaining because the Treasury was represented.

But the lack of urgency is at variance with the discussion at the seminar with DHSS.

You might like to ask Mr Forster whether matters really need to go this ~~to~~ slowly.

AT

6/2



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister <sup>(2)</sup>

You asked for a copy of the Binder Hamlyn report on the FPS.

I think you will get the essence of the report by reading pp's 1-9 and the Summary and conclusions beginning on page 49. The list of abbreviations at the back is indispensable

There may be a first reading discussion of this at the meeting on 12 January with Treasury and DTSS.

It may come to H or E(A) later in the month for formal Ministerial discussion.

AT

5/1



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From the Permanent Secretary

Sir Kenneth Stowe KCB CVO

David Barclay Esq.,  
No. 10 Downing Street,  
London SW1

Prime Minister (2)

You asked to see a  
copy of this report.

29 December 1983

DMS

29/12

Dear Mr Barclay

I enclose as requested a copy of the Binder Hamlyn Report.

You may like to note that although the Report is not marked CONFIDENTIAL it is being treated as such by the Department pending publication. We also intend to put a paper to 'H' Committee shortly to discuss the Report and hope that it will be taken at the meeting on 18 January.

Yours sincerely  
Kinde Kerry (MS)